

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire of the gentleman from New York about next week's schedule.

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FROST. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have concluded legislative business for the week. There will be no votes tomorrow, Friday, May 7.

The House will next meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 10, for a pro forma session. Of course, there will be no legislative business and no votes on that day.

On Tuesday, May 11, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

We will consider a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to all Members' offices. Members should note that we expect votes after 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11.

On Wednesday, May 12, and the balance of the week, the House will take up H.R. 775, the Year 2000 Readiness and Responsibility Act; and H.R. 1555, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000; and we expect the conference report for the supplemental appropriations bill.

On Wednesday, May 12, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business.

On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. and recess immediately for the annual meeting of the Association of Former Members of Congress. The House will reconvene for legislative business at approximately 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 13.

And on Friday, May 14, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

Mr. Speaker, we hope to conclude legislative business by 2 p.m. on Friday, May 14, and I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding to me.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I have several questions for the gentleman.

First, will we definitely be here voting next Friday, in view of the rather light work schedule that the gentleman has just announced?

Mr. LAZIO. If the gentleman from Texas will further yield, I would say it appears as though, if we can move quickly through the week, if we have the conference report on the supplemental available to us by Thursday, it would be more likely than not that we would not have to be in on Friday. But that will depend on the work of the conference and whether we have that supplemental conference report available to the House by that time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman one other question. During the last several weeks we have been here fairly late at night on a regular

basis. I would ask the gentleman whether he expects any late-night sessions next week.

Mr. LAZIO. Again, we do not expect any extraordinarily late nights for next week. Again, assuming that we can move through our legislative business as expected, we are not expecting to have any very late nights.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FROST. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield for a question, I do not believe that I heard that we would have the campaign finance reform legislation next week, or did I miss that? And if not, I would ask, it seems it is a very light week, it will be the second or third 3-day week that we have had in 2 or 3 weeks, and I was wondering when we might expect to have the campaign finance reform bill slipped into this rather busy agenda?

Mr. LAZIO. If the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) will further yield, the gentleman may recall and be cognizant of the fact that the Speaker of the House has announced and has committed himself to the fact that we will have campaign finance reform on the floor sometime by the end of September.

The gentleman from Illinois, the Speaker, is a man of his word. I have every confidence that that will happen, that this House will consider campaign finance reform in a prompt and expeditious way before the end of September.

Mr. STENHOLM. I would concur with everything that the gentleman said about the Speaker. There are about 191 Democrats and about 60 on the Republican side that I think would like to see it considered a little earlier, and I would respectfully ask that we take a look at the scheduling and see if we cannot find a way to bring it up a little bit before September.

Mr. LAZIO. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas. I know that the Speaker is trying to be sensitive to all the concerns of the Members but is very anxious to complete the business of the House, particularly the appropriations work that will see us through the summer. I think if it is at all possible for there to be a reconsideration of that date, that he will probably seize the opportunity.

He is committed to having campaign finance reform considered in this House by the end of September, and there is no doubt in my mind that this body will be acting far earlier than the body down the hall.

Mr. STENHOLM. The gentleman said one other thing that prompts me to again just observe that it is precisely because we are going to have a rather ambitious appropriations schedule, and as we have seen today with the debate and all of the rhetoric that has gone on, I think it is a fairly good prophecy that we are not going to have a very smooth appropriations schedule and cycling this year, that therefore it

would seem to me it would be prudent for us to move the campaign finance reform before we get into what obviously we are going to be getting into.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. LAZIO. Let me note as well that we are confident and the Speaker is confident that we will have several appropriations bills available to the House for a vote before Memorial Day break. That is well in front of schedule, and it is something I think the Speaker is committed to doing, to ensuring that we consider our appropriations bills earlier and get our work done earlier.

Hopefully, that will allow us the time both to consider campaign finance reform and to have a less contentious situation over the next few months. But the gentleman can rest assured the Speaker's word is good, that he is committed to a full hearing of campaign finance reform. It will be on the House floor, and it will be voted on.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 10, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, May 10, 1999, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 1999, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Wednesday, May 12, 1999, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 13, 1999, for the purpose of receiving in this Chamber former Members of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1999, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order on Thursday May 13, 1999, for the Speaker to declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair for the purpose of receiving in this Chamber former Members of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain one-minute speeches.

SUPPORT A DIPLOMATIC END TO CONFLICT IN KOSOVO

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, there are those who would say that involvement by Congress or private citizens in U.S. foreign diplomacy in the Balkans is not necessary and we can only complicate matters.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, we do not have to look very far to see these naysayers could not be farther from the truth. They could not be farther out of touch with America's wishes for peace and the quick and safe return of our military men and women.

We need only to look at the Reverend Jesse Jackson and his very successful campaign to free our U.S. POWs, and we need only to look no farther than this House, where numerous delegations, bipartisan delegations, have traveled great distances to observe firsthand U.S. military involvement in the dire refugee situation in the Kosovo region.

I commend and salute my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, and the leadership of both parties for supporting our effort to build a better understanding and working relationship with our counterparts in the Russian Duma. This information gathered by these bipartisan delegations provides all of us with a clear picture on how we can better do our job representing the American people on global issues.

CLINTON LEGACY WILL BE BALKANS WAR

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton says he is going to continue the bombing in Yugoslavia, and some people are beginning to ask what the Clinton legacy will be. Some say scandal and impeachment. I do not think so. I think it will be the war in the Balkans.

Mr. Speaker, when NATO began bombing Yugoslavia it led the way to billions and billions of dollars that will be spent on this war. Will we be expected to rebuild all that we destroy in Yugoslavia, as some have suggested?

To rebuild all that we have destroyed could cost hundreds of billions of dollars, power plants, airports, factories, bridges, oil refineries, infrastructure. The cost would be staggering. And where would the money come from if we have to pay it? That is right, Social Security, Medicare, our schools, and our roads. Our budget needs.

This administration is digging a deep hole with the war in the Balkans that is going to last for many years after President Clinton has left office. That may be the Clinton legacy.

CLINTON ACTIONS HAVE TURNED RUSSIA AGAINST AMERICA

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, earlier today we had a member of the Russian Duma who held a press conference in this building; and he said something that is very insightful. He said that for years and years and decades and decades the Soviet Communist party has spent billions of dollars to convince the Russian people that America should be the enemy, and it did not work in spite of all the effort of the Communist party. He went on to say that in 45 days President Clinton has done what the Soviet Communist party could not do, he has turned the Russian people against America.

Our embassy now tells Americans to not speak in English when they walk the streets. The Russians have cut off all contact with America. In 45 days this President has done what the Soviet Communist party could not do with billions of dollars in 70 years. Is this the kind of activity, is the continuation of this insane and reckless policy worth driving Russia into the hands of the ultranationalists and the Communists? I say no.

REPORT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PAYMENTS MADE TO CUBA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. 106-59)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without

objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114, 110 Stat. 785, I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on telecommunications payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 6, 1999.

ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS — MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Small Business:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to present my fifth annual report on the state of small business. In 1996, the year covered by this report, more than 23.2 million small business tax returns were filed. A record 842,000 new small employers opened their doors and new incorporations hit a record high for the third straight year. Corporate profits, employment compensation, and proprietorship earnings all increased significantly. Industries dominated by small firms created an estimated 64 percent of the 2.5 million new jobs.

Small businesses represent the individual economic efforts of our Nation's citizens. They are the foundation of the Nation's economic growth: virtually all of the new jobs, 53 percent of employment, 51 percent of private sector output, and a disproportionate share of innovations come from small firms. Small businesses are avenues of opportunity for women and minorities, first employers and trainers of the young, important employers of elderly workers, and those formerly on public assistance. The freedom of America's small businesses to experiment, create, and expand makes them powerhouses in our economic system.

An Unprecedented Record of Success

Looking back to the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business, one of the top priorities on the small business agenda was deficit reduction. Small business capital formation efforts had been undermined by interest rates driven sky-high by the demand for funds to service the growing national debt. Today I'm proud to say we've done what was thought nearly impossible then. This year we have converted the deficit to a surplus—and the budget deficit is no longer the issue it once was.